WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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A.

BEDWAS AND MACHEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1952

Walter Ellis & Son, Printers, Caerphilly, 'Phone 2219

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MAESYCWMMER WARD	...Councillor	Mrs. S. J. Graham
	,,	G. Phillips
	,,	R. Williams
	,,	G. J. Bright.
BEDWAS WARD ...	,,	F. C. Dudden
	,,	G. Lewis
	,,	T. T. Williams
	,,	H. Gibbon
TRETHOMAS WARD ...	,,	H. Ludlow
	,,	L. Vaughan
	,,	Mrs. C. Davies (Chairman)
	,,	S. G. Lewis
MACHEN WARD ...	,,	E. V. Matthews
	,,	G. Beeston
	,,	A. Walley
	,,	T. J. Jones

OFFICERS.

Clerk	W. Ewart Morgan
Medical Officer of Health ...	K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Surveyor and Engineer	R. Ruttley
Sanitary Inspector ...	H. R. Sulway, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
Addit. Sanitary Inspector ...	N. G. Rhodes, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
Chief Financial Officer ...	R. Humphreys, A.C.I.S.
Rating Officer	F. Phipps
Bankers	Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.
June, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit a summarised ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1952.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	approx. 6,200
Population (Census 1951)	8,712
Estimated Population (R.G.June 1952)	8,765
Number of Inhabited Houses (including Farms) 1951 ...	2,392
Number of Inhabited Houses (including Farms) 1952 ...	2,452
Rateable Value	£31,202
Sum represented by a penny rate	£112

VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES.

Year	Registrar General's Estimated Population.
1948	8,448
1949	8,581
1950	8,711
1951 (census)	8,712
1951 (estimated Mid-year)	8,662
1952	8,765

From the above table can be seen a steady increase in population which in the future should be accentuated having regard to the proposed building of new houses by the Council and the National Coal Board Housing Association.

The statistics for this year show an increase in the number of live births over deaths of 64, as compared with 24 in the year 1951.

BIRTH RATE.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	164	76	88
Illegitimate	5	2	3
TOTAL	169	78	91

Giving a birth-rate per thousand of the resident population per annum of 19.28.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	17.17
Rate for England and Wales	15.3

STILL BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
		1	2

Giving a Still-Birth rate of 0.34 per thousand of the population and 17.75 per thousand related Live Births.

Still-Birth rate for Monmouthshire 0.468 per 1,000 population.
Still-Birth rate for England and Wales 0.35 per 1,000 population.

DEATH RATE

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths from all causes	105	51	54

Giving a Death-rate of 11.99 per 1,000 resident population.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	11.52
Rate for England and Wales	11.31

Maternal Death Rate.

Deaths from Pueperal Sepsis	NIL
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY

Ages at death of CHILDREN under one year.

	Total	Males	Females
Under 1 week	2	2	0
1 to 2 weeks...	0	0	0
2 to 3 weeks...	0	0	0
3 to 4 weeks...	0	0	0
Total under One Month ...	2	2	0
1 to 3 months	1	.0	0
3 to 6 months	0	0	0
6 to 9 months	1	0	1
9 to 12 months	0	0	0
Total under One Year	4	3	1

This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 23.66 per thousand live births.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	33.87
Rate for England and Wales	27.61

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	2
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Meningococcal Infections	1	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	1
Malignant neoplasm (stomach)	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung, Bronchus) ...	2	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	5	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	18
Coronary disease, angina	7	5
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
Other heart diseases	7	10
Other circulatory disease	0	2
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	3	0
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	0
Nephritis and nephrosis...	1	2
Congenital malformations	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	1
Suicide	1	0
TOTAL	51	54

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The year 1952 was remarkably free from the incidence of infectious diseases other than tuberculosis.

Only 17 notifications were received during the year as follows :

14 cases of Measles.
1 case puerperal pyrexia.
1 case para-typhoid fever.
1 case meningitis.

The para-typhoid case was diligently investigated, but no actual cause was ascertained. Many cases were reported from neighbouring authorities and this case may have arisen in the Bedwas and Machen area, through contact.

Meetings were attended by Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors of the areas affected and every endeavour made to pin-point the vehicle of infection and possible sources of infection were investigated but no real evidence of the cause was definitely found.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

WARD	Measles	Para-Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningitis
Maesycwmmer	0	1	0	0
Bedwas ...	3	0	1	0
Trethomas ...	11	0	0	1
Machen ...	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	14	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases Notified and Mortality during 1952.

Age Period	NEW CASES				MORTALITY			
	Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 10 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 ...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15 to 20 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 25 ...	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 to 45 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 55 ...	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
55 and over ...	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
TOTAL ...	3	2	1	2	2	2	0	0

WARD INCIDENCE.

WARD	Cases Notified		Deaths	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Maesycwmmer ...	1	0	0	0
Bedwas	1	1	1	1
Trethomas	1	3	0	1
Machen	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	4	4	2	2

From the above tables it is with great satisfaction that it will be observed that the incidence of Tuberculosis is on a steady decline and is due mainly to the excellent facilities now provided to diagnose and treat cases and to keep would-be cases under constant observation.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses owned and controlled by the local authority and in occupancy at the end of December, 1952 was.....717

The types of property and situation is listed hereunder :—

WARD	Arcon type Bungalows	Aluminium Bungalows	Cornish type Flats	Cornish type Houses	Traditional Houses	TOTAL
Maesyewmmer ...	10	NIL	NIL	NIL	126	136
Bedwas	NIL	30	32	50	182	294
Trethomas	NIL	73	NIL	NIL	112	185
Machen	NIL	10	NIL	NIL	92	102
TOTAL ...	10	113	32	50	512	717

Number of houses built and occupied during the year.....62. which includes 6 houses built for Private Owners.

The progress in building new homes for the long list of applicants for Council owned houses is steadily improving and with the schemes which are in progress, should go a long way to providing the accommodation which is so necessary to the health and happiness of the inhabitants of the area.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....182

(b) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation.....NIL

(c) Number of houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....151

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 132

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :-

(a) **Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....NIL

(b) **Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-**

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....7

2. Number of Dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-

(a) By owners.....7

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS, Mon.
June, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
BEDWAS & MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Summary of Notices served during the year :-

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (Dealing with Nuisances and repairs to properties)
   Informal notices and letters.....197
   Abatement notices 7

2. Sections dealing with Cleansing of Premises :
   Informal Notices and Letters.....5
   Formal Notices .....NIL

3. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. (Dealing with rooms where Foods are stored or sold).
   Informal notices 2
   Formal notices .....NIL

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board of which the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council is a constituent member.

The quality of the water is good and the quantity is good, except in a few parts of the upper reaches of the area.

With the projected scheme of the enlargement of the water mains it is hoped that the water will have sufficient pressure to provide a constant supply to these areas.

Frequent sampling of the water is carried out by the Water Board officials and the 8 samples taken by me during the year were satisfactory.

During the year 12 houses were provided with a piped supply of water inside the houses which previously obtained their supplies from stand-pipes, after the service of Notices under the Public Health and Water Acts.

DRAINAGE.

Surface water drainage empties into the River Rhymney which flows through the entire length of the area, The river is polluted by colliery and gas works washings prior to its course through the area, and if this pollution could be discontinued the river could become an amenity instead of the dirty black and unsightly stream that it now is.

SEWERAGE.

The area is adequately served by the main trunk sewer maintained by the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board of which the Council is a constituent member.

17 premises have dry conservancy or cesspools for sewage disposal in the area, where it is impossible to connect to the piped sewerage system.

SWIMMING BATHS.

One privately owned open air swimming bath exists in the area and as I have previously reported, the building is badly affected through subsidence. The water is subjected to pressure filtration and chlorination and is satisfactory from that standpoint. There is the danger of a user of the swimming pool sustaining an accident on the very uneven concrete flags paving the surrounds.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Constant patrolling of the area is carried out by your full time Rodent Operator and with the help and guidance from the officers of the Infestation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, another year of excellent control over excessive infestation has passed.

In addition to the token inspections and treatments of the sewers throughout the area, which is carried out at least twice annually, all surface infestations have been effectually dealt with.

The river is still a considerable source of trouble and constant treatments are carried out.

All complaints of Rats and Mice Infestations were immediately investigated and treatments carried out.

The refuse tip is treated at least once a month as this is a favourite haunt for rats and has the disadvantage of being so close to the river.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notification of Infectious Diseases have been remarkably low this year and only 2 terminal disinfection of premises were carried out. The usual practice of giving disinfectants and advice to persons in close contact with the cases was dispensed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Food and Drugs Authority for the area is the Monmouthshire County Council and the sampling of various foodstuffs under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Weights and Measures Inspectors.

The handling and transport of foods is carefully supervised and every precaution is taken to see that the food supply is handled in a hygienic manner.

There are no large food establishments in the area and appart from the school canteens and the Colliery Canteen, no public eating places of importance.

MILK SUPPLY.

One Milk pasteurising establishment is situated in the area which is now licensed by the County Council.

Number of distributors (excluding producers).....10
Number of dairies (excluding dairy farms)..... 3

LICENSED PREMISES.

An inspection was carried out during the year on all Licensed Premises and the necessary requirements for the provision of hot running water were enforced and in all cases where this was not the practice, these arrangements have been installed. Also in a number of cases, sanitary accommodation has been improved and accommodation separate for the sexes provided.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Additional Sanitary Inspector is employed as full-time Meat Inspector at the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse at Maesycwmmer and as this slaughterhouse is the centre for the Meat Supply to 4 local authorities, his salary is apportioned to each authority on a proportionate basis.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected :—

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	TOTAL
3,278	402	19,767	1,085	24,532

Approximate weight of Meat and Offals condemned :—

23 tons 7 cwts.

	Cows	Cattle excl. cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals Slaughtered	771	2507	402	19767	1085
Whole carcases condemned for tuberculosis	14	3	1	NIL	NIL
Organs or carcases affected with tuberculosis	220	201	1	NIL	61
Percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis	28.5	8	0	0	5.6
Whole carcases condemned for disease other than tuberculosis ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	15	1
Organs affected with disease other than tuberculosis	517	852	1	1733	53
Percentage of animals affected with disease other than tuberculosis	65.7	33.9	NIL	8.7	4.9

INCIDENCE OF CYSTICERCUS BOVIS (Measly Beef)

	Number of Cattle Slaughtered	Number affected	Percentage affected
1st Quarter	528	7	1.3
2nd Quarter	388	4	1.3
3rd Quarter ...	1269	35	2.8
4th Quarter ...	1093	18	1.9
TOTAL ...	3278	64	1.9

Total percentage of cattle affected shows a decrease of 1.5 per cent. over the year 1950 and 0.7 per cent. over the year 1951.

Considerable improvements have been carried out during the year by the erection of an Offal hanging room and skin shed and the demolition of the old unsightly skin shed. Portions of the yard have been concreted and fencing erected at the rear of the slaughterhouse to keep out all intruders, including dogs.

FOODSTUFFS SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED FROM RETAIL SHOPS.

65 lbs. of beef ; 4 tins of ham (50 lbs.)
81 tins of various meat products ;
18 pork pies ; 11 tins canned fruits ;
32 lbs bacon : 21 tins various soups ;
21 tins of condensed and evaporated milk ;
12 lbs. of cheese trimmings ;
82 tins of canned tomatoes.

SCAVENGING.

The area is served for the collection of house refuse by two Shelvoke and Drewry freighters employing direct labour.

Although there is an adequate service, persons still persist in dumping refuse on odd bits of land and corners.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 20 premises and workplaces which come under the Factories Act, in the area.

The following gives the number of visits paid and notices served to remedy defects found during the year :-

Factories		Number	No. of Inspections	Notices served
Mechanical	...	7	14	NIL
Non-mechanical	...	12	28	1
TOTAL	...	19	42	1

The one defect found was referred by H.M. Inspect Factories and concerned the inadequate provision of proper sanitary accommodation on a building site for the building employees. This defect was remedied.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Routine Inspections, Visits and Re-Visits.....902

Nuisances abated without serving of notices..... 311

Preliminary Notices and Letters.....417

Statutory Notices served 7

House drainage, including eaves, gutters, downspouts, water closet pedestals - defects remedied.....82

Refuse accumulations removed.....21

Houses disinfected.....5

Factories inspections.....42

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Sanitary Inspector.